

QCWA Hotline Report



DEC. 1984

THE CASE FOR TEN WORDS PER MINUTE GENERAL CLASS LICENSE CODE SPEED

The purpose in asking the Federal Communications Commission for a reduction of General Class License code speed to 10 WPM is to ease the demand on Extra Class Licensees who are the only ones under the present system legally able to supervise the examination of General & Advance Class applicants. At the present time this group totals approximately 215,000. When Congress gave the FCC the authority to turn over administration of examinations to Amateurs, it mandated that those being examined must be supervised by individuals who hold an Amateur operator license of higher grade than the class license for which the examination is being conducted. The Extra-Class is the only exception to this Rule.

With respect to the General & advance class groups, a problem arose from the fact that both license grades have the same code speed requirement (13 WPM). The FCC and Congressional Staffs have reviewed the situation and have determined that the intent of the Congressional action was that persons examining prospective applicants must be qualified at a higher level in all elements of the relevant examination (with exception of the Extra Class).

RECENT AMATEUR LICENSE INFORMATION (FCC)

<u>License Class</u>	<u>Approximate No. Licensed</u>
Extra	35,000
Advanced	95,000
General	120,000
Technician	80,000
Novice	80,000

Looking at the above chart it is obvious that a potentially severe shortage of examiners for General Class applicants exists over a long period of time. Two solutions to the problem appear possible:

- Increase the code speed requirement for Advance Class licensees to approximately 15 WPM. This is obviously impractical because of the long time delay before it could be effected.
- Change the code speed requirement for General Class applicants to it's original level of 10 WPM. This is a practical solution since it provides immediate relief.

Some QCWA members have objected to the latter proposal, stating that we are proposing to lower the standards. While this might appear to be the case, if one takes a look at the total makeup of the current General Class examination even with the code speed reduced to 10 WPM, it is still far more complicated in the overall, than that examination years ago when the code speed requirement was 10 WPM.

The QCWA proposal grandfather's Advance Class licensees who are licensed as of the date of enactment of this proposal, so that no re-examination of existing Advance Class licensees is proposed for the code element of the examination. The pool of available volunteers to supervise the examination for the most popular (General) Class of License would be greatly enlarged, thus spreading the VE work over a much larger number of amateurs.

In my opinion those who state that we are lowering the standards are placing



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undue emphasis on a proposed small change. We are not proposing to eliminate code in any of the levels of the Amateur Radio licensing and we are talking of a small reduction in only one category proposed only in the interests of making it possible to provide adequate VE to handle the large number of General Class examinations which have occurred in the past and are expected in the future. Furthermore, the change in code speed requirements for the General Class may advance the date for potential examination of those who are either entering this radio service or upgrading. In my opinion, looking at the overall welfare of Amateur Radio, this proposal is good for the health of the Amateur Service.

- Stuart Meyer, W2GHK
President, QCWA Inc.

PRESIDENT MEYER STATES THAT AT LONG LAST HE HAS COMPLETED MODERNIZATION OF HIS HAM RIG AND STATION AND THAT HE PLANS ON BEING ON THE AIR ON NEW YEARS DAY FOR THE REGULAR QCWA WORLD-WIDE ON-THE-AIR-MEETING TO SAY HELLO TO ALL QCWA MEMBERS. HE WILL BE OPERATING FROM THE ALL NEW W2GHK! (Editors comment: you'd better give him a good signal report too!)

SPECIAL NOTE: ALL CANDIDATES WHO HAVE BEEN NOMINATED, EITHER BY THE COMMITTEE OR BY PETITION ARE REQUESTED TO PROVIDE HEADQUARTERS WITH A SMALL 9 2" x 2" BLACK&WHITE PICTURE OF RECENT VINTAGE, TOGETHER WITH A SHORT BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH FOR INCLUSION IN THE SPRING ISSUE OF QCWA NEWS. WE DO NOT KEEP A MORGUE OF PICTURES AT HQ, SO EVEN IF YOU WERE NOMINATED AND RAN IN PREVIOUS YEARS, THE NEED IS REAL....AND, BESIDE, WE WANT TO SEE WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE NOW, AND CERTAINLY YOU MAY HAVE ENTIRELY NEW CONCEPTS OF THE ROLE OF QCWA IN AMATEUR RADIO.

REMEMBER TOO, THAT ALL NOMINATIONS BY PETITION MUST BE IN THE HANDS OF JIM WALSH, W7LVN, NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 31, 1984. IF YOU ARE CIRCULATING A PETITION FOR A CANDIDATE, NOW IS THE TIME TO GET ON THE STICK, GET IT COMPLETED AND MAILED. NOT TOO MUCH TIME LEFT.

IT IS TOO LATE NOW TO REMIND YOU TO GET YOUR FILING INTO THE FCC....ON PRB-1. IF, HOWEVER, YOU HAVEN'T DONE SO, AND THIS ARRIVES EARLY, THE DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 24, 1984. THERE ARE REPORTS OF QUITE A FEW GOING IN. WE CERTAINLY HOPE THAT YOU AND YOUR CHAPTER MADE A FILING! THIS ACTION BEARS HEAVILY ON THE FUTURE OF AMATEUR RADIO! TO THOSE WHO FILE OR FILED, THANKS! TO THOSE WHO DIDN'T, FOR SHAME!

② MANY OF YOU SAW THE LIST OF CHAPTER SECRETARIES AND THEIR ADDRESSES IN THE LAST

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ISSUE OF QCWA NEWS. THERE WERE ERRORS AND OMISSIONS. FOR THESE WE APOLOGIZE WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO WHERE WE GOOFED....BUT, THERE HAVE BEEN BEAU COUP CHANGES SINCE THAT TIME. AS IT STANDS THERE IS SIMPLY NO WAY ON EARTH TO PRINT A CORRECT LIST. HEADQUARTERS HAS A SOLUTION WHICH WILL PROBABLY NOT BE POPULAR BUT WOULD BE WORTH CONSIDERATION. IT IS SIMPLY THAT ALL CHAPTERS INAUGURATE OFFICERS FOR EACH YEAR AS OF JANUARY 1, OF THAT YEAR. ELECTIONS COULD BE HELD ANY TIME, WITH EXISTING OFFICERS CONTINUING TO SERVE UNTIL YEARS END. IF YOUR ELECTIONS WERE HELD BETWEEN JULY AND NOVEMBER, THEN HEADQUARTERS COULD BE ADVISED, OUR LIST BROUGHT UP TO DATE AND A FULL AND CORRECT LISTING OF CHAPTER OFFICERS, AND CORRECT MAILING ADDRESSES PUBLISHED IN THE WINTER NEWS, FOR THE COMING YEAR. THINK ABOUT IT, AND THE ADVANTAGES....IF THEY OVERWEIGH THE DISADVANTAGES, NOTIFY YOUR BOARD MEMBERS OR HQ SO THAT IT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED BY THE BOARD AT ITS APRIL, 1984 MEETING.

EXTRA SPECIAL NOTICE::::::::::?½*#@: ELICOTT VALENTINE, PRESIDENT OF PIEDMONT CHAPTER 126, HAS ANNOUNCED A CHANGE IN THE LOCATION OF THE QCWA NATIONAL CONVENTION SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER, 1985. THE PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED LOCATION (CHARLOTTE, SC) HAS BEEN CHANGED TO WINSTON-SALEM, NC., AND THE NEW DATE WILL BE SEPTEMBER 26-29, 1985. THE LOCATION IS ON IS-40 WITH ALL MAJOR AIRLINES PROVIDING SERVICE TO THE WINSTON-SALEM / GREENSBORO / HIGH POINT REGIONAL AIRPORT LOCATED ABOUT 25 MINUTES FROM THE HOTEL - THE WINSTON-SALEM HYATT HOUSE, IN DOWNTOWN WINSTON-SALEM. THE HOTEL IS FIRST-CLASS WITH SUPERB FOOD. GOOD RATES HAVE BEEN OBTAINED. IT IS EXPECTED THAT FULL DETAILS WILL APPEAR IN THE SUMMER QCWA NEWS (MAYBE IN THE SPRING ISSUE, TIME PERMITTING) GIVING ALL PLENTY OF TIME TO MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND THIS IMPORTANT MEETING.

OCCASIONALLY ONE HAS TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT, OR TO ACKNOWLEDGE A POWER SUPERIOR TO HIS OR HER OWN, WHICH CAN BE DIFFICULT. QCWA AND I HAVE LOST A FAITHFUL AND WONDERFUL MAN - ROLLIE TERRILL, W5RC, PASSED AWAY ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1984, at 12:15 PM, OF A STROKE. I WILL SAY NO MORE, ROLLIE ABHORRED PRETENSION IN ANY FORM BUT I LOVED THIS MAN! - Editor.

DUES PAYMENTS HAVE BEEN ROLLING IN. DON'T FORGET, YOU MUST BE IN

CURRENT GOOD STANDING, AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1984, TO APPEAR IN THE 1985 QCWA MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY, DUE TO BE PUBLISHED EARLY IN 1985. SEND DUES PAYMENTS TO QCWA, INC., 1409 COOPER DR., IRVING, TX 75061-5527.

The most recent member enrolled in QCWA is:

Frank J. Hanzl, KC2I, Carlstadt, NJ

Frank's membership number is 18,326 and was issued on December 13, 1984. He was Plant Engineer in Westinghouse Electric for 46 and one-half years. His hobbies are wood-working and Ham Radio. Welcome, Frank!

Remember. All mail, correspondence, dues, etc., should be addressed to: QCWA Inc., 1409 Cooper Drive, Irving, TX 75061-5527. Mail addressed to Officers & Directors may be mailed that way, or sent direct - addresses appear on the Editorial page of QCWA NEWS.

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